

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- On (insert signature date) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed amendments to the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards for the manufacture of semiconductors. EPA established these standards to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants. These compounds, also known as air toxics, can cause cancer and other serious health effects.
- The semiconductor manufacturing industry is a subset of the electronics manufacturing industry, and produces integrated circuits or "chips." Integrated circuits combine the functions of discrete electronic devices in a miniature device that can perform complicated electronic functions in a fraction of a second. The electronics manufacturing industry produces devices such as computers, appliances, radios, CD players, and other finished goods that incorporate these integrated circuits.
- EPA published a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from these operations in 2003. That action is one of 96 rules EPA has issued since 1990 requiring 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons per year of toxic air pollutants.
- The final rule contained requirements to control organic and inorganic air toxics from separate process vents. However, at least one older facility combines inorganic and organic air toxics into a single vent.
- These proposed amendments would add separate process vent definitions for organic, inorganic and combined air toxics process vent streams and would add emissions control requirements for combined air toxics process vents at new sources. EPA is not proposing requirements that would control emissions from combined process vents at existing facilities.
- These amendments would not affect the annual capital costs of \$22,700 for implementing the final rule.
- EPA will accept comment on this proposed action for 45 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of 187 listed toxic air pollutants. For major sources (those with the potential to emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the law requires EPA to develop standards requiring the application of stringent air pollution controls. Those standards are known as "MACT standards," because they require the application of maximum achievable

control technology, or MACT.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download the rule from EPA's World Wide Web site, to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>. For more information about today's rule, contact John Schaefer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0296.